



Pits & Giggles Puppy Socialization Checklist

Most people know that puppy socialization includes introducing their puppy to other dogs and people. What you might not know is that there are hundreds of other things that puppy needs to be socialized to such as objects, sounds, traffic, crowds, new locations and even different flooring surfaces. Knowing what to socialize your puppy to, and where to take your puppy to experience these things, can be a bit of a challenge. As such, we've put together this puppy socialization checklist to get you started. Remember to always ensure these experiences are positive for your puppy. Never force a frightened dog to explore something on this list

Handling

- Checking the ears
- Examining mouth and gums
- Opening the eyelids
- Squeezing the feet
- Handling and trimming the toenails
- Pinching skin
- Poking the skin with a capped pen
- Touching and squeezing the nose
- Poking the nose with a capped pen
- Cradling puppy in your arms on its back
- Holding him in your lap
- Holding puppy upside down
- Holding puppy on its back while giving a belly rub
- Hugging your puppy
- Pulling the collar (gotcha)
- Grabbing puppy by other part of body
- Wiping body with a towel
- Putting on a head halter
- Putting on a harness
- Men with beards
- Elderly People wearing hats or helmets
- People wearing boots
- People wearing hoodies
- People wearing backpacks
- People wearing sunglasses
- People with canes, walking sticks or walkers
- Teenagers
- Children standing as well as playing
- Toddlers (walking and squealing)
- Infants (crawling)
- People running by
- Indigent or homeless people

Unfamiliar People

- Women
- People of many ethnicities
- Tall men

Unfamiliar Dogs

- Dogs who play well
- A dog who will reprimand puppies with appropriate force and restraint for getting into his personal space
- With puppies who play well

Other Animals

- Cats
- Horses and livestock
- Any types of pets you may have

Unfamiliar Surfaces

- Concrete
- Slippery floors such as hardwood, linoleum or marble
- Metal surfaces-such as manhole covers, vet hospital scales
- Stairs
- Wet grass
- Mud Ice, frost, or snow if you will live in such areas

Scary Sounds

- Thunder
- Fireworks
- Babies and kids
- Alarms
- Dogs barking
- Doorbell ringing
- Traffic (like downtown in a city)
- Sirens
- Vacuum cleaner
- Lawn Mower/ Leaf Blower

Objects with Wheels

- Skateboards
- Rollerblades
- Garbage cans outside
- Shopping carts
- Baby strollers
- Wheel chairs
- Bikes
- Cars
- Buses
- Motorcycles

Man-Made Objects

- Pots and pans
- Blankets or rugs being shaken
- Brooms
- Balloons
- Umbrellas
- Bags blowing in the wind
- Sidewalk signs
- Garbage cans in the house
- Garbage cans outside
- Plastic bags blowing the wind
- Large plastic garbage bags
- Metal pans or other metal surfaces
- Metal-pens

New Environment

- Suburban neighborhood
- Residential city streets
- High traffic city street
- Shopping mall parking lot
- Inside buildings
- Dog-friendly event such as an agility or obedience trial
- Location of several different dog training classes